

**MEMO**

**TO:** House Natural Resources Committee Members

**FROM:** Michigan Retailers Association

**SUBJECT:** Support HB 4345 H-1

**DATE:** October 6, 2015

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Michigan Retailers Association is the unified voice of Michigan's retail industry and represents more than 15,000 storefronts across the state. MRA supports the H-1 substitute of HB 4345 that would ban the use of plastic microbeads in personal care products and over-the-counter (OTC) medicines because it creates a statewide standard that is consistent with our neighboring Great Lakes states.

The legislation gives retailers, manufacturers, and pharmaceutical companies enough time to sell the existing stock of products and create new, microbead-free products while protecting our critical natural resources. It also ensures that there is not a patchwork of rules and timelines that would make it difficult for national and international manufacturers to be in compliance with each state, city, or county. Adopting a consistent standard ensures that each stakeholder knows the rules and can be in compliance.

In short, the H-1 substitute of HB 4345 fairly addresses concerns of environmental groups without harming businesses. As a result, MRA supports the H-1 substitute of HB 4345 and urges committee members to approve the bill.